

The Dolphin-Safe Fishing Act is the responsible way to respond to concerns about the tuna trade, and I urge my colleagues to get the facts before they support any other legislation.

RICHARD BURSTEIN—VALLEY  
BETH SHALOM MAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend Mr. Richard Burstein, an outstanding citizen. On June 1, 1997, Richard will be named the Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, CA.

Richard, who lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Irene, and their two sons, received his undergraduate degree at the University of California at Los Angeles where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science in June 1970, awarded magna cum laude. After graduating college, Richard enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, graduating with a juris doctor degree in June 1973. During 1972–73, Richard served on the Moot Court Board.

Richard has been a practicing attorney in California for 24 years. Richard specializes in general civil litigation, commercial real estate, business, tort contract, and corporate matters. His practice includes matters in both State and Federal court and also issues of attorney conduct. He is a member of the California State Bar where he has served as a judge pro tem in the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court.

Not only has Richard excelled in his professional life, but he has been a great community leader as well, enhancing the lives of his fellow citizens in the community. He has devoted countless hours of service at his synagogue, Valley Beth Shalom, where he served as president from July 1994 through June 1996. During his presidency, with his collegial style he found solutions to difficult problems as he coordinated the Temple's successful efforts to complete the repairs caused by the devastating January 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake. He worked to insure that the earthquake repairs and events at the Temple were conducted in a way that was sensitive to the needs and concerns of the Temple's neighbors and the conditions established by the city of Los Angeles.

He previously served as President of the Valley Beth Shalom Day School for 3 years, and as Temple vice president of Administration and Education. As the immediate past president, Richard serves on the executive committee and the board of directors of Valley Beth Shalom. Richard's emphasis on the needs of our community has had a great impact on all our lives; his values and ethics have set an example for others to follow—that is why it is with great pleasure and esteem that I stand here today to pay tribute to a great citizen of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Richard on being honored as Valley Beth Shalom's Man of the Year. His wife, his children, and his community can be proud of

Richard's accomplishments. His unselfish dedication will be marked forever in our history.

### THE BIRTHDAY OF THE SIKH NATION: A TIME TO SPEAK OUT FOR FREEDOM

### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to wish our Sikh friends a happy Vaisakhi Day. This day commemorates the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. It is an extremely important day in the Sikh calendar.

In 1999, only 2 years from now, the Sikh Nation will celebrate its 300th anniversary. This will be a major celebration for the Sikh Nation and its friends. However, it will be diminished if the Sikhs continue to live under the kind of brutal tyranny and repression where human rights violations are committed by the occupying Indian forces.

A recent example on March 15, 1997, involved the abduction and murder of Kashmir Singh, an official of the Akali Dal or Amritsar. Kashmir Singh was picked up by the police in the middle of the night by the police and murdered. His lifeless body was then dumped at the district hospital. On September 6, 1995, the police kidnapped human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira, who had published a report exposing their policy of mass cremations. Last year it was reported that the police picked up and murdered a 3-year-old Sikh boy, his father, and his uncle, who were all suspected terrorists. Quite frankly, it is difficult for me to believe that a 3-year-old boy could be a terrorist. The regime has also detained and harassed Ram Narayan Kumar, a Hindu human rights activist who produced the video, "Disappearances in Punjab," which was provided to me last year by the Council of Khalistan. The list goes on and on.

All told, it is estimated that over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been persecuted for speaking out for what they believe in. In America, we call it free speech. In India, they clearly do not.

These are just a few examples of human rights violations committed by India. We must continue to press India to respect basic human rights. If India does not comply, then the United States should stop sending them millions of dollars in foreign aid. It is time to take action to end this injustice. Then we can join our Khalistani friends in celebrating their 300th anniversary.

I hope my colleagues will take a few minutes to review the following article on the murder of Kashmir Singh.

[From the Indian Express, Mar. 17, 1997]

#### A COLD-BLOODED KILLING?

(By Atul Sangar)

HOSHIARPUR, March 16.—Widespread resentment prevails amongst the residents of Pandori Rukmana village, located about 10 km from Hoshiarpur on the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road, and several other villages, over the killing of 26-year-old Kashmir Singh, allegedly by a Tarn Taran police party on Friday night.

The body was cremated today after a post-mortem examination which showed wounds on the neck and knee caps.

Such was the anger of the people that the day the incident took place, villagers from the area collected in large numbers at Prabhat Chowk, in Hoshiarpur, demanding registration of a case by the police. However, after about six hours of dharna and blocking of traffic, it was only when Punjab minister Sarup Singh got caught in the traffic jam and was later gheraoed by the villagers, that the case was registered, said Professor Guralp Singh, uncle of Kashmir Singh.

A gloomy atmosphere prevailed in the village when this reporter visited the family of Kashmir Singh. His father Jeet Singh said tearfully, "we were sleeping inside when suddenly 10 to 12 persons, some in plain-clothes and others in uniform, caught hold of me by the throat. On hearing my shrieks, my son also came to my room. We were told by police and others to keep quiet and were apprehensive that these persons may be bad elements. They tried to grab and drag us out of the house. Two or three rounds were fired during this scuffle and we were bundled into a four-wheeler with a blanket over our faces."

Jeet Singh, a farmer and junior employee of a semi-government undertaking, said that his son was farming and had studied up to BSC-I. He said that after being "kidnapped" they were made to travel for about 20 minutes and he was pushed out of the vehicle near a sheller at Kanani-Wala village where he asked for water from the sheller attendant. Barefoot, he later started walking back and took a lift from a taxi and reached the village.

Meanwhile, at the village, the ladies, including Kashmir's wife Harpreet Kaur, raised a hue and cry and the sarpanch, lambardar and others gathered.

According to the members of Kashmir's family, the duo were taken away around 12.30 or 1 a.m. and Jeet Singh returned around 3 or 4 p.m.

Jeet Singh's house is partially constructed and wood work is incomplete in several rooms. He left behind an eight-month old child.

Later, the villagers approached the police and rang them up from the panchayat telephone but persons turned up from the Nasrula Chowki only.

Lambardar Ajeet Singh said that Kashmir was wrongly being defamed as having terrorist links. Others told The Indian Express that Kashmir was an activist and pracharak of Akali Dal (Mann).

Mann also visited the village today. Sympathising with the villagers, he is reported to have said that the Badal government was going the way of previous governments.

A couple of empty cartridges were recovered from the courtyard of the house today.

On the other hand, the Hoshiarpur police and their counterparts in Tarn Taran have contended that Kashmir had terrorist links and was killed in an encounter with the police.

Shera, a resident of a neighbouring village, said, "we never expected this kind of treatment from the Badal government and the police."

But it seems nothing has changed.

Many in the area expressed frustration over the state of affairs."

The SSP of Hoshiarpur was not available for comments despite several attempts to contact him.

Chandigarh: Director General of Punjab Police P.C. Dogra has defended the police action resulting in the death of Kashmir Singh.

The latter, he said, was not only wanted by the police but had also made a murderous assault on the police party carrying him.

While one SPO and witnesses had been seriously injured by him with a sword, the police, he claimed, had acted in self-defence.